

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

BULLETIN

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237th Plenary Session

The Economic and Social Committee held its 237th Plenary Session in Brussels, on 21 and 22 May 1986. The Committee's Chairman, Mr Gerd Muhr, presided.

Statement by the Chairman on the reactor disaster at Chernobyl

'Recent events have been so complex that they cannot be adequately assessed in a few words by the Committee Chairman, and it is still too early to grasp their full implications. What can be said at this stage is that this is one of the turning-points of human history which cast doubt on our whole mode of thinking.

Just as the Lisbon earthquake of 1755 shook Western philosophy's faith in progress, it may be that the Chernobyl accident will cause us to question the extent to which technology can be controlled, or manipulated at will.

Even under the most favourable conditions, the effects of this disaster will last for centuries, according to the technicians concerned. In view of these considerations, I should like to confine myself to making a few points on behalf of the Committee.

First and foremost, we extend our sympathy to the victims of the accident. It is to be feared that many more will be added to the victims known so far.

Secondly, the safety of the population must be the overriding aim of the thinking and actions of political leaders. This must be the guiding principle of all the measures which need to be taken. Decisive action is a challenge to which democracy must be equal if it is to retain its credibility.

Thirdly, it is desirable for information policy to be as open as possible and to seek to assemble all relevant data, in order to prevent — as far as possible — a similar disaster occurring within the Community, and to deal in a prompt and coordinated way with external disasters which may affect the Community.

Fourthly, the Community Institutions are called upon to agree as rapidly as possible on common, and above all binding, safety standards.

The points I have just made are in accord with the resolution adopted by the Committee in April 1979 after the Harrisburg accident, in which it stressed the need for adoption of a nuclear safety code — already proposed by the Committee in 1977.'

The Committee will give further detailed study to this subject.

Statement by the Chairman on EC air transport policy

'I should like to draw your attention to a judgement on air transport recently handed down by the European Court of Justice. We dealt with this subject in September and reached a very broad consensus.

We welcome this decision of the European Court of Justice as a clear call to the Council of Ministers to take action at last and as fresh support for our view that the lack of clear Community provisions in this area leads to endless court proceedings.

We therefore appeal to the Council to consider the question of air transport and to adopt measures in line with our Opinion'.

Installation-in-office of the new Portuguese Members

The first part of this Session was devoted to the installation-in-office of the 12 new Portuguese Members.

Extracts from the speech by Mr Muhr, Chairman of the ESC

'From the start of the accession negotiations we endeavoured to foster the closest possible contacts with our partner organizations in Portugal. With the bilateral relations between our organizations as a basis, these contacts have taken various forms, such as regular visits by the ESC Chairman and Vice-Chairmen and a major conference held in 1980 embracing the organizations of all the candidate Member States.

Our attitude then was already quite clear. From the start the ESC was practically unanimously in favour of swift completion of the enlargement operation.

To our great satisfaction this lengthy process is complete and it is now a question of filling in to the best of our ability the framework mapped out by the Treaty of Accession.

The resolve of Spain and Portugal to integrate in the Community of West European nations reflects their commitment to this Community and to democratic principles and ideals. This step, however, also entails obligations for us, as such an important decision and the associated changes in these countries naturally arouse hopes.

While it will not be possible to fulfil all these hopes we must at least avoid any major disappointment.

It is not yet completely clear what burdens this will mean for the Community in the medium and long term.

There is a price to be paid for historic decisions but — as observed in our Opinions at the time — this is more than justified if success is finally achieved. If we are all linked by the same aims and are ready and willing to align our various standpoints where possible then our future cooperation will be fruitful'.

Mr Van Eekelen

Mr Van Eekelen, State Secretary in the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and President of the Council, said that the Dutch Presidency of the Council had always been in favour of new countries joining the EEC. The European Community, whose population had gone up from 272 million to 320 million, now had a real European dimension and covered a large area of Europe.

Mr Van Eekelen went on to say:

'You, ladies and gentlemen, are the Community's experts and advisers. It is your Reports and Opinions that create a vital link between the institutions of the Community on the one hand and social reality in the Member States on the other'.

He then added:

'The economic crisis is becoming less acute. We can already see the first signs of the "beginning of the end", of the transition from economic depression towards an improvement on the economic horizon. We have put an end to "Europessimism" and laid the basis for economic and social improvements. The Dutch Presidency is convinced that the accession of Spain and Portugal is a step forward towards a fully democratic Europe'.

Mr Cardoso e Cunha

Commissioner Antonio Cardoso e Cunha declared that since 1985 the feeling of crisis had changed into a positive will to do things.

The Accession of Portugal and Spain had led to a new sort of Community, one that was perhaps less simple but, from the political and social point of view, was richer, more complete and more European. The European Community had assumed a new shape that was fundamentally different from what it had been before and there was no turning back.



The new Portuguese delegates. Centre: Mr Muhr, ESC Chairman with Mr Louet, Secretary-General, Mr Fernandes Marques, Portuguese State Secretary for Labour and Employment, and Mr Cardoso e Cunha, Portuguese Commissioner.



From left to right: Mr Louet, Mr Fernandes Marques, Mr Van Eekelen, President of the European Council, Mr Muhr and Mr Cardoso e Cunha.

With the Single Act an essential step had been taken towards institutional reform. During 1986 the Commission had embarked upon an ambitious programme based on the consolidation of the internal market, technological co-operation, monetary co-operation, economic cohesion and a new social dimension.

Mr Cardoso e Cunha went on to say:

'that because of the very nature of its make-up, the functions assigned to it under the Treaties and by its own initiatives, especially in its dealings with the other institutions and the general public, the Economic and Social Committee was a privileged forum for dialogue and for establishing a preferential link between the Community institutions and groups of citizens representing every type of interest, with obvious advantages for both sides which clearly went far beyond the formal aspects of the Committee's constitution'.

Mr Fernandes Marques

Mr Fernandes Marques, the Portuguese State Secretary for Labour and Employment, said that the other Member States could count on Portugal's wholehearted support. 'After securing political democracy in our own country, we believe that we have a duty to promote social, economic and cultural democracy. The most disadvantaged groups in society — women and young people — must benefit from the progress offered by new technologies. That can only be achieved by social dialogue. Both sides of industry must seek out ways of solving these problems. It is my hope that the Economic and Social Committee will help to consolidate political, economic, social and cultural democracy in the Europe of the Twelve.'

Mr Rolão Gonçalves

Mr Rolão Gonçalves, the oldest of the new Members, assured the Committee that it could count in future on the full cooperation of his Portuguese colleagues. He recalled that, after 50 years of authoritarian rule, his country had carried through a political revolution to attain democratic freedom. This revolution now had to be followed by an economic revolution and Portugal placed high hopes in Community solidarity. 'We are the seventh largest Member State in terms of population (around 10 million) but with a per capita income of 2 000 ECU per annum.' The main problem was unemployment, necessitating a huge national investment, especially in infrastructure and in vocational training and retraining. 'We are conscious of the fact that Portugal's accession to the Community will enable us to meet this challenge.'

The installation-in-office of the new Portuguese members brought total membership of the Economic and Social Committee up to 189. The new Councillors are:

Artur Luís Alves Conde, Associação Portuguesa dos Economistas
—APE

Manuel António Araújo dos Santos, União Geral de Trabalhadores
UGT

Augusto Gil Bensabat Ferraz da Silva, Confederação Geral dos
Trabalhadores Portugueses-INTERSINDICAL-CGTP-IN

José Bento Gonçalves, Confederação Nacional das Cooperativas
Agrícolas de Portugal CCRL CONFAGRI

Carlos Alberto Pereira da Silva Costa, Administração do Porto do
Douro e Leixões e Perito em Transportes/Transportes

Manuel Lucas Estêvão, Consumidores — Instituto Nacional de Defesa
do Consumidor

João António Gomes Proença, União Geral de Trabalhadores-UGT

Vasco Manuel Lobo Brandão Rodrigues Cal, Confederação Geral dos
Trabalhadores Portugueses-INTERSINDICAL-CGTP-IN

António Ernesto Neto da Silva, Confederação da Indústria Portuguesa
— CIP

Rui Herlander Rolão Gonçalves, Confederação do Comércio Português
— CCP

Raul Rosado Fernandes, Confederação da Agricultura Portuguesa
—CAP

Manuel Maria Sà Coutinho de Lencastre, Associação de Hotéis de
Portugal

The Assembly elected the following Portuguese members as Bureau
members:

Mr Neto da Silva, Employers' Group

Mr Proença, Workers' Group

Mr Gonçalves, Various Interests Group

OPINIONS ADOPTED

1. MARITIME TRANSPORT

'Communication and proposals submitted by the Commission to the Council on Progress towards a Common Transport Policy — Maritime Transport' (COM(85) 90 final)

Gist of the Commission document

The European Community is the leading trading area in the world. Its trade with non-EC countries in 1982 represented 21% by value of world imports and 20% of world exports. Maritime transport is far and away the most important carrier of this trade. About 95% of the total quantity of EC trade (in tonnes) with non-EC countries and about 30% of intra-Community traffic is carried by sea. This shows how the EC is dependent on world trade and how its maritime shipping interests are in turn dependent on the international maritime shipping markets.

The Commission holds the view that the maintenance of a multilateral, market-economy orientated maritime shipping policy remains in the interests of the EC maritime shipping industry and that of shippers, in spite of EC vessels' declining share of the world fleet. It is consequently more necessary than ever for the Community and the Member States to take action against the growing danger to EC interests posed by practices and policies employed by non-EC countries which make it more difficult, if not impossible, to maintain a market economy system. One of the priorities of the Communication is therefore to set out proposed counter-measures.

This Opinion deals with the following proposals (legal basis: Article 84, paragraph 2 of the EEC Treaty):

Draft Council Decision amending Council Decision No 77/587/EEC of 13 September 1977 setting up a consultation procedure on relations between Member States and third countries in shipping matters and on action relating to such matters in international organizations.

(The amended Decision would make it possible to hold prior consultations on relations between Member States and non-EC countries in the field of maritime transport) (Annex II.3.).

Draft Council Directive concerning a common interpretation of the concept of 'national shipping line'.

(Under this Directive Member States are to take the necessary measures to ensure that shipping lines which are 'national shipping lines' within the meaning of the UN Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner

Conferences may take part in conferences in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 954/79, provided that they meet the conditions set out in the second paragraph of Article 1 of the draft Directive) (Annex II.4.).

The Communication from the Commission also surveys developments in bulk shipping and open-registry shipping. In the case of both of these fields the Commission considers that the Community's interests are best served by pursuing a liberal maritime shipping policy. In the event of the misuse of this freedom, such as by the use of ships which do not conform to standards or the adoption of unacceptable working conditions, it should be possible to take strict measures to put a stop to unacceptable practices.

The Commission also wants to continue its work in the field of maritime safety and the prevention of maritime pollution. The main fields of action are as follows:

- the development and coordination of port-state control (minimum standards for ships and working conditions);

- consideration of the need for a network of shore-based navigation aids to improve maritime safety in the Community's coastal waters, followed by the establishment of such a network if it proves to be advisable;

- measures to facilitate the transfer of ships between Community countries;

- the establishment of common standards for the training of Vessel Traffic Management Services (VTS) staff (captains and crews).

As regards seaports, the Commission holds the view that they should be considered against the background of the establishment of a common transport policy, covering maritime shipping and inland transport. In its Communication the Commission therefore draws attention to the proposal which it recently submitted to the Council on the elimination of distortions in competition between seaports owing to different regulations laid down by the various Member States with regard to hinterland traffic. (The Committee adopted a separate Opinion on this matter on 30 October 1985). The Commission has let it be known that it will be taking a fresh look at State aid to seaports and intends to tackle this issue on the basis of Articles 92 and 93 of the Treaty. The Commission also intends to intensify its cooperation with seaports in the field of information technology (exchange of information).

Finally, the Commission intends to put forward proposals, by 1986 at the latest, with regard to research programmes in the field of maritime transport (maritime systems, transport needs, new means of transport,

ship-harbour interfaces, ship safety and environmental protection, ship economy and competitiveness). The Commission also wishes to exercise more effective control over the transport of EC food aid to developing countries and maritime fraud.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

This Opinion was adopted by a large majority, with one vote against and three abstentions.

Whilst welcoming the new positive stance adopted by the European Community in regarding maritime transport as an industry in its own right, the Economic and Social Committee feels that the European Community's maritime policy must be strengthened. The Community is not faced with a stark choice between a free market and protectionism, rather there can be a balanced and pragmatic approach applying selective defensive actions where the basic viability of the shipping industry is being seriously undermined.

The Committee strongly urges that the European Community should take shipbuilding policy into account insofar as it has had an impact on shipping policy since the persistent problem of overcapacity is one that handicaps any recovery in shipping. Therefore the Committee recommends that the European Community should encourage its shipowners to adopt its 'scrap and build policy' as a means to prevent second-hand market vessels acting as cheap sub-standard competition to European Community operators.

Moreover, the Committee stresses that the European Community should use its negotiating powers to resist protectionism in the maritime trade by including provisions to safeguard the access of vessels registered in Member States in trade agreements with third countries.

There should be greater coordination of national assistance to shipping companies within the Community and the European Community should resist more strongly and openly any undesirable national shipping subsidies worldwide where they contribute to the overtonnage crisis.

As regards 'Open Registries', the Committee noted that as Flag of Convenience shipping now represents 28% of world tonnage and while it was 9% smaller than total European Community flag tonnage in 1975 it is now 29% larger. Noting this, the Committee felt the European Community had given insufficient attention to the economic impact of

¹ CES 511/86.

flags of convenience on Member States' fleets and their competitiveness. The European Community should therefore use its power to require Member States to inform it of any flagging in or out by European Community owners or the acquisition of foreign vessels using European Community based capital. Whilst the international character of the maritime problem needs to be stressed, further improvements to the present legislation can only be achieved by direct European Community support and action. The Committee recognizes that flags of convenience are not necessarily synonymous with substandard operations and believes that all vessels regardless of flag should be made subject to more stringent port-state control.

Finally the Committee stressed the best way to secure and protect the employment and livelihood of seafarers and their shipping industries is to ensure that the Community's maritime policy stimulates international trade and continually endeavours to improve their collective standards of living.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Transport and Communications chaired by Mr Delourme (Belgium—Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Mols Sørensen (Denmark—Workers).

2. GATT

'Forthcoming round of GATT negotiations'

Aim of work

The most recent Committee Opinion on the GATT multilateral trade negotiations dates back to 1977.¹ Since then the Committee has studied various aspects of international trade problems in connection with its work on other matters.²

The Section for External Relations observes that, under economic pressure, some countries are increasingly resorting to protectionist attitudes incompatible with GATT principles despite the fact that a proliferation of protectionist measures merely pushes up unemployment further. In contrast, in the Section's view, fair and free world competition would help to stimulate economic activity and gradually make it possible to pull out of the recession.

¹ OJ C 126, 28.5.1977.

² Economic and Commercial Relations between the Community and Japan (OJ C 230, 10.9.1981).
The Community's external relations — Appraisal and consistency of action (January 1982).
Relations between the European Community and the United States (OJ C 286, 24.10.1983).

Convinced of the need to shun any form of bilateral arrangement hampering trade between industrial partners and to seek out multilateral formulae for dismantling trade barriers, the Section feels that GATT must continue to serve as the forum for negotiations between partners. This Opinion attempts to pinpoint the goals to be pursued by the Community in the forthcoming round of GATT negotiations.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion¹

For economies to be stimulated and gradually pull out of the current recession, free, fair world competition is a *sine qua non*. Under economic pressure, some countries are inclined to adopt protectionist measures conflicting with the principles of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). A proliferation of protectionist measures would merely push up unemployment further. The Economic and Social Committee, in its Opinion adopted unanimously with three abstentions, therefore calls for such measures to be combated.

The forthcoming round of GATT negotiations must first of all consolidate the results achieved at the Tokyo Round. In tandem with these multilateral trade negotiations the European Community must succeed with its partners in establishing an orderly monetary system to ensure, for instance, that currency fluctuations do not disrupt trade flows.

In addition, the Committee — a genuine consultative assembly grouping representatives of employers' organizations, trade unions and various interest groups — proposes the innovatory step of extending the multilateral trade negotiations to cover liberalization of services (i.e. banks, insurance, transport, etc.), which currently account for 25% of international trade. Since international trade in both industrial products and services is increasingly influenced by the technology policies of the contracting parties to GATT, and especially the large trade partners, a 'New Technology Code' should be drawn up. This code should cover tariff and non-tariff problems connected with trade in high technology products or services, including public purchasing policy, promotion of exports, strategic aspects and registration and testing standards and procedures.

In its Opinion the Committee stresses that agriculture should also be included in the future GATT negotiations, given the fact that the increasingly disturbed situation on the international markets for farm products is jeopardizing supplies to the developing countries (whose status should be defined more precisely within the GATT framework)

¹ CES 512/86.

and farm incomes in both the developing and the industrialized countries. In these negotiations the position of the Community as an exporter of agricultural products should be clearly affirmed and the Community should be able to keep its share of the world market.

The Committee remains convinced that the contracting parties should do their utmost to avoid resorting to the safeguard clause, which allows derogations from the GATT rules in certain cases. These safeguard measures should be authorized only in exceptional circumstances and be of limited duration.

As regards textiles, the Committee comes out in favour of renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) and urges that the developing countries be progressively subjected to the normal GATT rules. In conclusion, the Committee stresses the need to improve the poor working conditions (noise, dust, heat, working hours, child labour, trade union rights) of workers in the textile sector in the developing countries. The Committee calls for the inclusion of 'minimum social standards' (as provided for by the International Labour Office) in bilateral agreements so that those countries that make genuine efforts to improve the working conditions of their labour force benefit and those countries that do not are penalized.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for External Relations, chaired by Mr Zinkin (United Kingdom — Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Breitenstein (Denmark — Employers).

3. FARM WORKERS (Own-initiative Opinion)

'Effects of the CAP on the social situation of farm workers in the Community'

Gist of the Committee's Opinion¹

The Community must decide immediately on a system of adjustment aid for workers affected by essential CAP reforms. This is one of the key ideas put forward by the Economic and Social Committee in its Opinion adopted unanimously.

The employment of farm workers in the EEC has undergone far-reaching changes over the last three decades due to general economic trends, the increasing integration of agriculture into the rest of the economy and the increasing specialization and intensification of agri-

¹ CES 513/86.

cultural production. Over this period the number of regular hired workers fell by about 70%; the age structure of the remaining work force points to a further decline in the number of full-time workers by some 300 000 over the next decade, down to a mere 350 000 or so. There is a danger that the depressing labour market situation in the Community could lead to an increase in part-time, seasonal and casual working and hence to a further decline in social security for those workers who, for want of alternative employment opportunities, are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.

Against this background the Committee considers it essential that when any agricultural policy decisions are taken, the effects on farm workers be taken into account. Basically the Committee recommends that production and individual farms be put on a sound long-term footing in order to create the preconditions for secure, decent jobs for farm workers. It also suggests that suitable training measures be introduced to enable farm workers to satisfy the increased demands arising from technological advances in production and processing, microelectronics and biotechnology in particular.

Finally, according to the Committee, the Community of 12 must decide immediately on a system of adjustment aid for workers affected by essential CAP reforms. Such a programme of social back-up measures must include:

- the creation of alternative jobs;
- further training and retraining;
- early retirement arrangements.

In the Committee's view the necessary funding — which in any case will be only a barely measurable fraction of the money spent on regulating the agricultural markets — should, for reasons of social harmony, be provided as a matter of priority and as 'compulsory expenditure'.

The Committee also urges the Community Institutions to initiate closer cooperation between national social security bodies in the field of accident prevention and employment protection, and to issue standardized EEC regulations in this area.

In future seasonal workers will be less and less able to provide the greater skills demanded of farm workers. A Community programme to promote employment all the year round is therefore essential. This programme could comprise:

- the provision of funds for the diversification of agricultural production, subject to conditions regarding employment;
- aid for the employment of temporary workers, in so far as the minimum working conditions are shown to be decent;
- suitable further training measures at times when employment is scarce in the regions.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Agriculture, chaired by Mr de Caffarelli (France — Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Lojewski (Germany — Workers).

4. SOCIAL SECURITY

'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community and Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71' (COM(86) 166 final)

Gist of the Commission document

The aim of the Commission proposal is to regulate, by means of an amendment to Article 14 c) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71, the situation of persons employed and self-employed in more than two jobs in two or more Member States and to lay down the method of implementing the Article thus amended.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion¹

In its Opinion, adopted by a large majority, with one vote against and one abstention, the Committee recognizes that the amendments are necessary if there is not to be loss of statutory entitlement to benefits, and approves that they should be retrospectively operative from 1 January 1986.

Whilst it is recognized that the shortcomings in the 1408/71 Regulation were very unlikely to have been foreseen, the Section agrees with the basic premise of the amendments whereby each altered Article and Annex of the Regulation tends to lean toward the advantage of a transfrontier worker in order that the concept of free movement of labour and professional expertise is maintained within the Community and the entitlement to statutory benefits recognized.

The Committee points out that the amendments to the Social Security Schemes Regulation are complicated and very detailed. It is pleased to learn that there will shortly be available a document setting out, in simple terms, the obligations and benefits incurred by citizens of Member States moving and working within the Community. The new

¹ CES 508/86.

guidelines should be made available through all the appropriate social-security services in each Member State as soon as possible.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Social Questions, chaired by Mr Kirschen (Italy — Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Pearson (Ireland — Employers).

5. SHARED-COST RESEARCH

'EC Shared-Cost Research, Development and Demonstration Programmes'

Background

In 1985 the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions drew up an Information Report on EC Shared-Cost Research, Development and Demonstration Projects (CES 423/84 fin of 6 September 1985). This Report was examined at the 31 October 1985 Plenary Session, and in the course of this examination the Committee decided to forward it to the Community institutions.

The Section members involved in the drawing-up of this Information Report had visited a number of contractors working on shared-cost research programmes. One of the objects of the Report was to present the Commission with independently expressed views on the organization of shared-cost research and, more especially, on how better value could be got for the work and money put into this research.

After having collated the suggestions put forward by the contractors (who were all in favour of more shared-cost research), the Section issued a number of recommendations with regard to the criteria for the selection of programmes, Commission procedures, closer coordination with industry, pre-contract information for potential contractors, the Commission's information and communication policy, the confidentiality of the research work and the subsequent utilization of results.

Broadly, the Report urged the Commission to expand jointly funded research. The purpose of the recommendations was to ensure maximum proficiency.

Even in the preliminary stages the Report had aroused a good deal of interest at the Commission and in government circles.

However, in view of the rapid progress being made on several fronts in the Community, in the field of technological R & D the Section thought that the Information Report ought to be followed up by an Own-initiative Opinion, whose main aim would be to inform Commission contractors and the scientific world in general of the improvements

made by the Commission to the system of shared-cost research contracts and, more generally, of the progress made towards a more coherent Community research policy and strategy.

The Section also wished to issue new recommendations which took account of developments that had taken place in the meantime.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion¹

The Opinion — adopted unanimously — is divided into three. The first part reiterates the main conclusions reached by the Section in its Information Report.

In the second part the Committee comments on the progress made by the Commission in the field of shared-cost research since the Information Report was compiled. In particular, it is pleased to note the good progress made by ongoing programmes such as Brite and Esprit and the improvements made to the organization of shared-cost research (simplification and coordination of procedures) and to contract mechanisms.

At a more general level, the Committee underlines the progress made by the Commission in devising an overall strategy for establishing a European scientific and technological community. The framework programme for technological R & D is the basis for this strategy.

In the third part, the Committee issues new recommendations for the future. It assumes that shared-cost research — a vital and widely recognized tool for Community research — will develop further.

It recommends in particular that the Commission should act further to improve efficiency and value for money, applying the criteria laid down by the Committee in the first part of the Opinion.

The Committee also recommends the establishment of procedures for:

- involving small and medium-sized enterprises in shared-cost research;
- facilitating technology transfer and, more generally, the circulation and exchange of information.

The Committee also emphasizes the role to be played by innovation in ensuring the success of the shared-cost research and calls for an explicit definition of the Community's role in the dissemination and exploitation of the results of Community research, development and technology demonstration (RDTD) activities.

¹ CES 506/86.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr de Normann (United Kingdom — Employers).

6. NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Communication from the Commission to the Council and Draft Council Resolution on a Community orientation to develop new and renewable energy sources' (COM(86) 12 final)

Background to and contents of the document

The Commission Communication of 22 May 1985 to the Council on new Community energy objectives for 1995 (COM(85) 245 final) sets the objective of tripling, by the end of the century, the contribution made by new and renewable energy sources to the replacement of traditional fuels. New and renewable sources could cover nearly 5% of energy demand in the Community by 2000.

The main new sources dealt with in this Communication are: solar energy, geothermal energy, wind power, hydro-electricity, energy from biomass and from waste, and energy from the sea.

The increased use of new and renewable energy sources is an integral part of the Community's energy strategy. Their development will enable the Community to increase its own production of energy, to diversify and improve its energy supplies, and to reduce its dependence on imports.

What is more, most of them are decentralized sources. Hence their development helps to incorporate a local and regional dimension into the Community's energy policy. Considered to cause little pollution, these sources are more readily accepted by the public for their positive impact on the environment.

For these reasons the Commission considers that, as part of the Community's energy strategy, it is necessary not only to continue and step up technological measures to develop the use of new and renewable sources through the implementation of R & D and demonstration programmes, but also to supplement these measures by defining a Community approach for the development of these sources.

The objective of this Community approach is to ensure coordination between and a degree of balance in the measures taken by the Member States, seeing that these energy sources are often dependent on local

geographical conditions and the interest in their exploitation varies throughout the Community.

Consequently the aims of the Commission Communication are the adoption of instruments of cooperation and, if necessary, the coordination of national actions and the introduction of Community measures.

Such measures may be general, involving all the sources covered by the Commission document, or sectoral, involving one or other of the specific sources.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion¹

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee welcomes the continuation of the research and development programme and the demonstration programme for the introduction of new and renewable energy sources, and more particularly the aim, pursued through practical demonstration projects, to make these sources an instrument for increasing the security of the European Community's energy supplies.

The Committee endorses the Community approach to development of new and renewable energy sources presented by the Commission, and especially the acknowledgment of the need for reliable data on the exploitable potential of such sources in the Community, and for improving methods of quantification in order to obtain these data.

The Committee makes some suggestions for a better explanation of the real contribution of new and renewable energy sources to regional and technological diversification of the Community's future energy supplies, and for stressing the part which such sources should play in its economic development, especially at the local and regional levels. However, these suggestions are not intended to detract from the positive overall assessment of the Commission document.

Finally, the ESC also suggests that consideration be given to setting up and promoting centres in various Community regions with tasks in the areas of primary information, training, demonstration and adapting existing technology. The work of these centres should be directed towards small enterprises, craft firms and workers.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Flum (Germany — Workers).

¹ CES 504/86.

7. VALOREN (INDIGENOUS ENERGY)

'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) instituting a Community Programme for the development of certain less-favoured regions of the Community by exploiting indigenous energy potential (Valoren Programme)'
(COM(85) 838 final)

Gist of the Commission document

This is one of the Community's first two programmes designed to stimulate development in less favoured regions through the exploitation of energy potential. It is a framework programme, the detailed implementation of which will be left to the Member States.

The measures provided for in the Community programme are concerned first with the economic exploitation of local energy resources such as alternative and renewable energy sources (solar energy and wind power, biomass, small-scale hydro-power and geothermal energy) and small deposits of peat and brown coal. The programme also covers the efficient use of energy (insulation, regulation, lagging, load balancing, and feasibility studies) and oil substitution (natural gas, combined heat and power, recovery of waste heat, and feasibility studies); certain measures are aimed principally at SMEs.

Both types of measure are backed by extensive promotion activities for the following operations: analysis and programming at regional and local level (programming being particularly useful where the objective is integrated exploitation of all the available energy resources), advisory services and technical assistance for SMEs, and dissemination of know-how.

The regions

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| — in France: | Corsica and the overseas departments |
| — in Greece: | all regions, excluding Athens |
| — in Ireland: | all regions |
| — in Italy: | the Mezzogiorno |
| — in the United Kingdom: | Northern Ireland |
| — in Spain: | } regions to be determined at a later date |
| — in Portugal: | |

The financing

As the programme is consistent both with the objectives of Community regional policy and with those of Community energy policy, the level of

Community participation will be the maximum normally permissible under the ERDF Regulation (up to 55% of the total public expenditure in question).

All or some of the aid may be in the form of a capital grant or an interest subsidy.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion¹

In its unanimous Opinion, the Committee comes down squarely in favour of the programme. The Committee nonetheless emphasizes that the primary concern should be to prevent waste. Furthermore, the programme should not be used by the Member States for experimentation or demonstration purposes but should, rather, be based on tried and tested technologies which will make an effective contribution to the economic development of the region.

The detailed implementation of the programme will also require close cooperation with regional authorities.

To this end information and promotion campaigns will be needed, together with strict observance of the principle of additionality.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Regional Development, chaired by Mr Dassis (Greece — Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Saïu (France — Workers).

8. ASBESTOS

'Proposal for a Council Directive on the Prevention of Environmental Pollution by Asbestos' (COM(85) 632 final)

Gist of the proposed Directive

The proposal is a follow-up to the directives on the protection of workers exposed to asbestos at work and the marketing of products containing asbestos. The proposal adapts a new comprehensive approach to prevention. It seeks to prevent contamination of the environment by asbestos by reducing emissions from all sources as much as possible.

However, it does not propose a general ban on the use of asbestos. This would not be feasible at present in view of the difficulty of finding a substitute for many applications, and especially the risk that any substi-

¹ CES 510/86.

tute products might also carry dangers for public health and the environment that would be less known and less controllable than those caused by asbestos.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion¹

The Opinion was adopted by 94 votes for, 42 votes against and 8 abstentions. The Employers' Group issued a minority declaration opposing the Opinion.

While acknowledging the need for this Directive on asbestos in the environment, the Committee regrets that it fails to provide effective health protection for the population, especially against malignant tumours induced by asbestos. Yet this must be the central environment goal of any EEC Directive on this subject.

The ESC also considers that the Directive should reiterate the policy pursued by the EEC to date, namely the phased prohibition of asbestos in conjunction with the mandatory use of substitutes. A deadline should be set for a total ban on all use of asbestos.

Alternative substances and products have already been developed for the large majority of asbestos-based products and, contrary to the Commission's assertions, it has been shown that the health risks associated with these substitutes, in particular the danger of cancer, are much less than with asbestos.

At all events the Committee believes that special attention should be paid to asbestos and substitute products in the Community's environment R & D programmes. Technological and financial aid should also be made available to ensure that health protection is not jeopardized for economic reasons.

Following the vote, Mr Pearson made the following declaration on behalf of Group I:

'The Members of the Employers' Group support, in general, the proposals for a directive regarding environmental pollution by asbestos as stated in the Commission's document (COM(85) 632 final).

However, the Members cannot support the Opinion because it goes far beyond the issues proposed by the Commission.

The Employers' Group cannot agree with the very wide ranging proposals in the Opinion in relation to the use of asbestos, especially the proposal to set a deadline to ban the use of all asbestos products.'

¹ CES 507/86.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mrs Heuser (Germany — Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Bleser (Luxembourg — Workers).

9. CHROMIUM

'Proposal for a Council Directive on water quality objectives for Chromium' (COM(85) 733 final)

Gist of the Proposal for a Directive

The proposal concerns the national programmes to reduce chromium pollution of the aquatic environment.

It lays down concrete quality objectives for chromium which must be included in these programmes.

These quality objectives were principally chosen on the basis of those indicated in national programmes.

In addition, the proposal stipulates a reference method of measurement for chromium in the aquatic environment. This should facilitate comparison of the data communicated to the Commission, and ensure harmonization of the results of the programmes.

Finally, the proposal sets deadlines for implementation of the programmes.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion¹

In a unanimous vote, the Committee approves the proposal, though it notes that the water quality objective for chromium is more stringent than it is in the directive for surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water.

It also notes that national programmes for reducing the pollution of water by chromium should be completed by 1991 at the latest. The Committee would have preferred a shorter deadline and urges that there should be no undue delay.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mrs Heuser (Germany — Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr de Normann (United Kingdom — Employers).

¹ CES 503/86.

10. PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

'Proposal for a Council Directive on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes' (COM(85) 637 final)

Gist of the Commission proposal

The Commission proposal is in two parts:

It recommends that the EEC should sign the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes.

It puts forward a proposal for a Directive on the protection of the said animals.

This proposal accepts that the use of animals in experimentation is still necessary but lays down basic conditions as follows:

- the number of such animals should be reduced;
- the level of suffering should be minimized;
- the origin of the animals must be known;
- each experiment must be authorized by the competent authorities;
- information on experiments must be collected and given to the Commission.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion ¹

The Committee unanimously agrees with the Commission's proposal but recommends that the final text of the Commission's document be as close as possible to the text of the Convention.

However, the Committee draws attention to:

- certain areas in which its conclusions differ from those of the Commission, e.g. on 'non-discrimination' of species, on experiments in schools (which should be prohibited), on the notification procedure and on education and training;
- certain areas in which immediate action should be taken, e.g. improvement of current legislation, harmonization of international standards, the position of Third Countries;
- certain areas where discussion between the national authorities of the Member States seems desirable, e.g. authorization procedures, inspectorates, personal licensing, statutes, etc.

¹ CES 502/86.

The Committee also puts forward a large number of amendments to the proposal of a technical nature.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mrs Heuser (Germany — Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Storie-Pugh (United Kingdom — Various interests).

11. WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82 on the implementation in the Community of the Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora' (COM(86) 167 final)

Gist of the Commission Proposal

The Regulation applying the Washington Convention within the Community is to be changed by transferring three species of butterflies from Part 1 to Part 2 of Annex C.

As a result, these three species will be able to be imported into the Community in the conditions laid down in the Regulation.

The reason given by the Commission for its proposal is that the rearing of these three species in the countries from which they originate is generally considered to be beneficial to their conservation.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion¹

In its unanimous Opinion, the Committee agrees with the Commission that the rearing of the species threatened with extinction will help to ensure that they do not die out and will increase their populations.

This is why the Committee hopes that similar measures can be adopted for other species which are threatened with extinction.

The Rapporteur-General for this Opinion was Mr Zoli (Italy — Various interests).

¹ CES 509/86.

12. VAT — CHANNEL

'Proposal for a Council Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes — VAT rules applicable to the operation of a future cross-Channel fixed link' (COM(85) 858 final)

Gist of the Commission proposal

In its proposal, the Commission asks that the tolls charged for using the fixed cross-Channel link (tunnel) be exempted from VAT and that the right to deduct VAT paid on inputs be continued. The proposal concerns two Member States: the French Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The proposal has been made on the grounds that operations of sea and air transport services across the Channel are at present exempted from VAT and operators have the right to a refund of taxes paid at a preceding state.

The two Member States concerned feel that the application of VAT solely to a fixed cross-Channel link would lead to a distortion of competition to the detriment of the tunnel operators.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion¹

In its unanimous Opinion, the Committee agrees to the proposed Directive as it places all cross-Channel communications on an equal footing.

The Committee asks that this decision be reviewed if VAT is imposed on other cross-Channel transport services and urges the Commission to speed up work so as to end the discrepancies still to be found in respect of indirect taxation on passenger services in general.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Economic and Financial Questions, chaired by Mr Marvier (France — Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Hemmer (Luxembourg — Employers).

¹ CES 501/86.

13. STANDSTILL ON VAT AND EXCISE DUTIES

'Proposal for a Council Directive imposing a standstill on VAT and excise duties' (COM(85) 606 final)

Gist of the Commission Proposal

To achieve a European internal market by 1992, a series of tax measures will have to be taken. These include the abolition of tax remission on exportation and tax imposition on importation, the fixing of a uniform basis of assessment for VAT with the same number of rates and tax levels that are identical or very similar, and a harmonization of the structure and rates of excise duties.

At present, there are major divergencies between national VAT rates and excise duties. The Commission is proposing that appropriate measures be taken to prevent existing gaps from widening further.

The first article of the proposal contains provisions relating to VAT, and the second concerns excise duties.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion¹

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion on this subject by a large majority, with four votes against and four abstentions.

Although it feels that the proposal is too modest for the goal being pursued, the Committee in principle approves the proposal. It considers, however, that the adoption of the Directive must not serve as an excuse for curbing or slowing down harmonization in the fields of VAT and excise duties.

The Committee feels that the title of the proposal is inappropriate since the provisions on VAT do not constitute a 'standstill' but an optional procedure for bringing rates closer together.

The ESC then points to a number of problems not covered by provisions in the Directive, namely the drawing-up of a list of goods and services subject to the various VAT rates in the Member States' systems, and zero-rating in a number of Member States.

Finally, the Committee makes a number of technical comments in the 'specific comments' section. These are designed to improve the Commission's proposal.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Economic and Financial Questions, chaired by Mr Marvier (France — Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Della Croce (Italy — Workers).

¹ CES 500/86.

14. MACHINE TRANSLATION SYSTEM OF ADVANCED DESIGN (EUROTRA)

'Proposal for a Council Decision amending, on account of the accession of Spain and Portugal, Decision 82/752/EEC on the adoption of a European Economic Community research and development programme for a machine translation system of advanced design' (COM(85) 676 final, as amended by COM(86) 94 final)

Genesis and contents of the document

By virtue of Decision 82/752/EEC of 4 November 1982 (OJ L 317 of 13 November 1982) the Council has adopted a Community research and development programme for a machine translation system of advanced design (Eurotra). The aim of the programme is to make it possible to handle all the official languages of the European Community.

According to the Commission the system is intended, when developed, to provide rapid, economic and high-quality translations simultaneously in all Community languages.

In its Opinion adopted on 25 February 1981 (OJ C 138 of 9 June 1981) the Committee announced its approval of the programme, emphasizing that its success would be of great importance in helping to remove the language barrier.

Under the terms of the 1982 Decision, the programme is adopted for a period of five and a half years. The funds considered to be necessary for the execution of the programme amount to 27 million ECUs, of which 16 million ECUs come from the Community budget and 11 million ECUs from national contributions.

The Decision explicitly lays down that the machine translation system should be able to handle all the official languages of the European Community.

The accession of Spain and Portugal therefore means that the Eurotra programme must be expanded to include the Spanish and Portuguese languages and enable the two new Member States to participate in the programme's implementation.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion¹

In a unanimous Opinion, the Committee approves the proposed extension of the Eurotra programme by 18 months and the increase in its funding.

¹ CES 505/86.

The Committee feels that such an extension not only fulfils a legal obligation but also satisfies a double need which was already a basis of the 1982 Decision: that of preserving the richness and variety of the European languages, which are the expression of Europe's cultural diversity, while eliminating obstacles to communication and trade within the Community.

In particular, the success of the Eurotra programme will enable all the Member States of the Community to benefit from the development of telematics and communication and information networks.

The extension of the Eurotra programme is a tangible expression of the principle of equal treatment for all the official languages of the Community. The Committee asks the Council to take a decision rapidly on the Commission's proposals, as any delay could lead to discrimination against Spain and Portugal. Such a situation might also result in the programme being delayed.

As the Committee has already pointed out in its Opinion of 25 February 1981, attention is drawn to the social repercussions of developing a machine translation system, which, among other things, could lead to the nature of translation work being permanently changed. It asks that an examination be carried out as soon as possible of any measures likely to ensure the necessary adaptation of translation work to such change.

The ESC also wishes to emphasize that the use of machine translation should not, under any circumstances, lead to language teaching being discouraged or hampered, because if the peoples of the European Community are to be brought closer together it is essential that language teaching be continued and developed.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The sole Rapporteur was Mr Brassier (France — Various interests).

External relations

Activities of the Chairman

Mr Muhr, ESC Chairman, attended a meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (CISL) held at the Committee headquarters, Brussels, on 14 and 15 May 1986.

He also attended a reception at the Town Hall given by the Mayor and aldermen of Brussels to welcome the new Spanish and Portuguese Members.

On 21 May Mr Muhr met His Excellency Mr Ungerer, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany in Brussels. The same day he also met Mr Brinkhorst, Head of the EC delegation in Tokyo, who was visiting Brussels.

ESC delegation in The Hague

An Economic and Social Committee delegation visited The Hague on 28 and 29 April as part of the biannual study of the economic situation in the Community. The Committee will also produce a study of the economic situation in the Netherlands, the country which currently holds the Presidency of the Council.

The Committee delegation was headed by Mr Goris (Netherlands — member of the S.U. Various Interest's Group). The Rapporteur was Mr Geuenich (Germany — representative of the Workers' Group).

The delegation met representatives of national social and professional organizations, as well as Mr Popen, Secretary-General of the Netherlands Economic and Social Council and Mr Bolkenstein, State Secretary for Economic Affairs.

New consultations

Since the last Plenary Session, the Economic and Social Committee has been requested to deliver Opinions on the following subjects:

'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulations (EEC) No 1408/71 and No 574/72 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community — technical amendments consequent on enlargement' (COM(86) 125 final)

'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/143/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers' (COM(86) 214 final)

'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 78/660/EEC on annual accounts and Directive 83/349/EEC on consolidated accounts as regards the scope of those Directives' (COM(86) 238 final)

'Proposal for a Council Directive on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the pursuit of broadcasting activities' (COM(86) 146 final)

Provisional future work programme

July 1986 Plenary Session

Opinions upon consultation

- Social security for migrant workers
- Mid-1986 economic situation
- Listed companies
- 'Yes for Europe programme'
- Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions
- STAR programme
- Customs warehouses
- Common information market
- Socio-structural measures
- Forestry sector
- Customs territory
- Dumping of waste at sea
- Pressure vessels

Information reports

- Importance of technological R & D for SMEs
- SMEs in the tertiary sector

Own-initiative

- EEC/Asean relations

Subsequent Plenary Sessions

Opinions upon consultation

- Social developments
- Community action in the field of tourism
- Foodstuffs
- Food additives

Labelling of foodstuffs
Materials in contact with foodstuffs
Foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses
Simple pressure vessels
Winding up of credit establishments
XVth Report on competition
Collective investment undertakings
Non-resident carriers — inland waterways
Non-resident carriers — road haulage
JRC's programme of activity (87-91)
2nd science and technology strategy programme

Own-initiative

Financial integration in the Community
Local employment initiatives
Criteria and efficiency of integrated operations
Relations between EC/United States/Japan

Information reports

Health problems
Island regions
Stocktaking and prospects for a Community rail policy
Upland areas

Personnel notices

Mr Muhr, Chairman, and other Members of the Committee receive the Medal of European Merit

The Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities, Mr Gerd Muhr, and the two Vice-Chairmen, Mr Umberto Emo Capodilista and Mr Philip H. Noordwal, have just received the Medal of European Merit. This decoration, which was presented to them by Mr Jacques Santer, the Head of the Luxembourg Government, in the presence of Mr François Visine, who set up the European Merit Foundation, is awarded to persons who have worked selflessly for the cause of European unity.

The European Merit Foundation comes under the aegis of the Luxembourg Government.

Other ESC Members who have received the Medal of European Merit include:

Mr René Bonety, Expert in the Economics Department of the French Democratic Confederation of Labour (CFDT)

Mr Clément de Bievre, Honorary Director of the Federation of Belgian Industry (FEB/VBO), Former Vice-President of the Central Economic Council

Mr Jacques de Bruyn, Honorary General Consultant of the Association of Belgian Banks (ABB/BVB)

Mr Alfred Delourme, Deputy General Secretary of the Belgian General Confederation of Labour (FGTB/ABVV)

Mr Josef Houthuys, President of the Belgian Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (CSC/ACV)

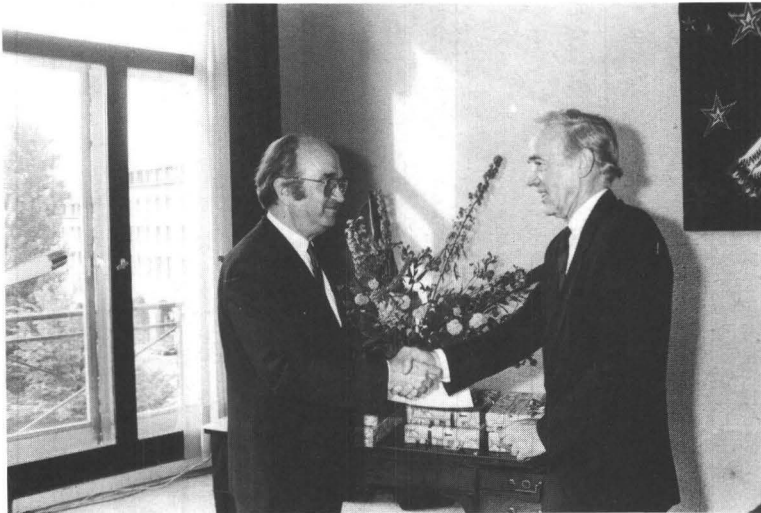
Mr Alberto Masprone, Deputy Director-General for the Coordination of the activities of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities — General Confederation of Italian Industry

Mr Roger Ramaekers, President of the Consumer Council, Secretary-General of the Belgian Cooperatives Federation

Mr André Soulat, National Secretary of the French Democratic Confederation of Labour (CFDT)



Mr Santer, Luxembourg's Prime Minister, decorating Mr Muhr for his devotion to the cause of European unity.



On the occasion of the departure of Mr Pixius, Director-General, the Chairman of the ESC, Mr Muhr, thanking him for 28 years spent at the Committee.

Mr Germozzi

Mr Germozzi has been unanimously re-elected President of the European Union of Crafts and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (UEAPME) for a period of three years.

The retirement of Mr Pixius as Director-General of the ESC

Mr Pierre Pixius, Director-General of the Economic and Social Committee, will retire on 31 May 1986 at the age of 65.

Mr Pixius has worked as an ESC official since the Committee was set up on 20 May 1958. On 1 July 1980 he was appointed Director-General. At the same time he has been Chairman of the Committee of Heads of Administration of the European Communities (1982-86). He was also awarded the European Medal of Merit on 26 November 1981.

PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

General documentation

The other European Assembly, January 1986 (CES 86-001)
European Union, a people's Europe and the Economic and Social Committee
(Committee Chairman Muhr's speeches to the *ad hoc* Committees for
Institutional Affairs and a People's Europe), 1985 (EX-43-85-35)

Opinions and studies

Occupational Medicine — occupational cancer (1985)
Consumer-producer dialogue (Opinion) (January 1985) (ESC 84-011)
Europe and the new technologies — Conference report (January 1985)
(ESC 84-016)
Irish border areas (Information report) (February 1984) (ESC 84-002)
Tourism (Opinion) (June 1984) (ESC 84-004)
The economic and social situation in the Community (2 opinions) (July 1983)
(ESC-83-013)
Youth employment (Opinion) (June 1983) (ESC-83-011)
Transport policy in the 1980s (Opinion) (March 1983) 99 pp. (ESC 83-003)
Guidelines for Mediterranean agriculture (4 opinions) (September 1982) 64 pp.
(ESC 82-010)
The economic and social situation of the Community (2 opinions) (July 1982)
57 pp. (ESC 82-008)
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(January 1982) 139 pp.
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97 pp.
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(June 1978) (Documentation) 60 pp.
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EEC's transport problems with East European countries (December 1977)
(Opinion) 164 pp.
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Obtainable from Gower Publishing Co. Ltd., 1 Westmead, Farnborough, Hants GU 147RU:

Community Advisory Committee for the Representation of Socio-Economic Interests (UKL 8.50)

European interest groups and their relationship to the Economic and Social Committee (UKL 25)

Obtainable from Editions Delta, 92-94 Square Plasky, 1040 Brussels:

Action by the European Community through its financial instruments (Brussels 1979) (BFR 425)

The economic and social interest groups of Greece (BFR 350)

The right of initiative of the ESC (BFR 400)

Obtainable from Kogan Page Ltd., 120 Pentonville Rd., London N1

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Annual Report 1984 (ECU 4.05)

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